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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF
LAVINIA L. DOCK



ORGANIZATION NOTES

A NEW league, or, as we should call it, *alumnæ* society, has been formed in England, consisting of the nurses of the Leicester Infirmary.

One of the objects of this league, which is decidedly original, is to organize a Recreation Club.

The Recreation Club includes two classes of members, associates and full members. The associates have no votes in matters connected with the league, nor can they wear the badge or be entered on the register. The Recreation Club is intended to be composed of various sections, two of which, that on library and that on cycling, are already in a flourishing condition. We shall hope to hear more of this rational and cheerful league.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION AND REGISTRATION

At the annual meeting in June the question of State registration was actually discussed at length.

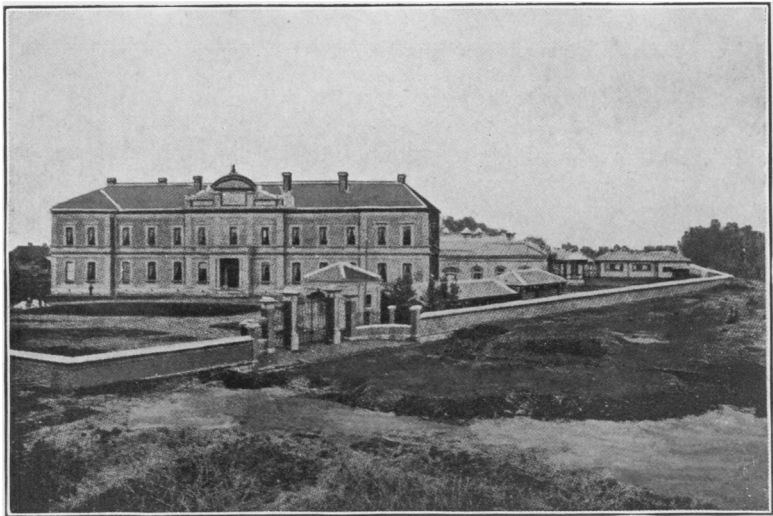
As was mentioned in a previous issue of this JOURNAL, notice had been given at an earlier meeting that Miss James intended bringing in a motion to discuss State registration, and this motion was now formally read, being as follows:

"Moved by Miss James: 'That it is desirable that the subject of State registration shall be discussed by the Royal British Nurses' Association.'"

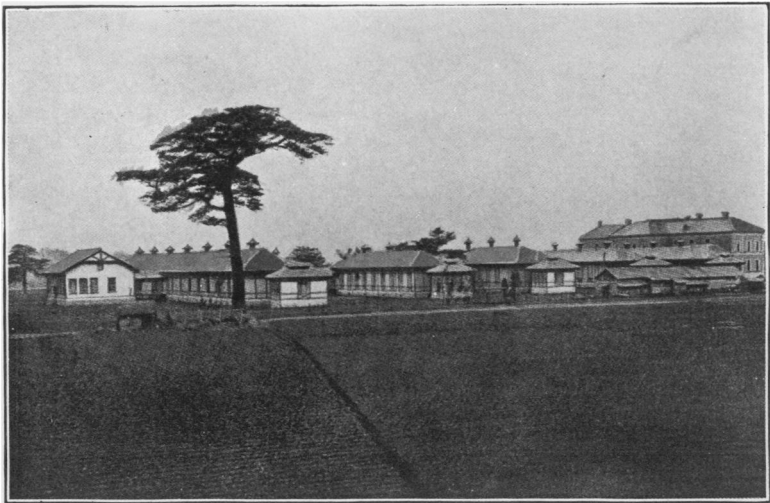
Miss James then spoke at length in favor of State license for nursing. Our Miss Catherine Wood seconded the motion and spoke strongly and sensibly, as usual, and was followed by Miss Forrest. The three arguments were strong and well made. The report gives no negative side, so that one must conclude no opposition was expressed.

We are quite sure it must have required much courage and firmness to introduce this tabooed subject, and we congratulate the nurses who did so, as, whatever may be the different views as to the desirability of State license, there can be only one opinion as to the desirability of full, open, and untrammelled discussion in nurses' associations. Why people should be afraid of one another is one of the puzzles of this puzzling world, and the special form of subtle intimidation by which one set of people can make another set of people afraid to express their opinions is one of the queerest puzzles of all.

THE British Gynæcological Society has given its first examinations and certificates for proficiency in gynæcological nursing. This looks like a step towards State examination.



RED CROSS HOSPITAL. FRONT VIEW



RED CROSS HOSPITAL. REAR VIEW

RED CROSS ORGANIZATION IN JAPAN

THROUGH the kindness of the secretary of the Japanese legation we have received an attractively printed and beautifully illustrated pamphlet describing the work of the Red Cross Society, which is wonderfully well organized in Japan.

A map accompanying the pamphlet shows that local societies are dotted completely over the empire, almost every town of any size having one.

Like the Red Cross Societies of Europe, the organization is under the direct patronage and guidance of the Emperor and members of the royal family. The different officials in authority are chosen by the government from military men and civilians of rank, and the methods of western countries in all details are closely followed, or, even, improved upon. The society has a hospital, which, to translate rather loosely from the pamphlet, which is written in French, is the only one of the kind in the extreme East, and is one of the glories not only of the society, but of Japan.

It was the work primarily of one man, Baron Haslimoto, general medical inspector, who at the time when Japan was about to enter the Convention of Geneva was charged with the special mission of studying Red Cross work in Europe, and who upon his return to Japan published a book called "The Red Cross," in which he strongly urged the necessity of establishing a hospital for the society in which medical men could obtain service and where the nurses of the society might be trained.

His project was approved, and a suitable site selected at Tokio, where the projected building was publicly dedicated by the Emperor in 1886, two days after Japan had entered into the Geneva Convention. The work of the hospital was to be: to give instruction to the staff required for first aid and nursing; to be ready as a reserve hospital in time of war; to take patients from the people at ordinary times, some being pay and others free patients. The work of building was carried on so well that the building was completed in two-years' time.

The hospital is constructed with a central administration building, with nine pavilions connected by corridors. These corridors in time of war could easily be transformed into wards, as could also the large lecture-room now used for the instruction of pupils.

Since the war with China the system of instruction of nurses has been greatly extended and remodelled, and several new buildings have been added for this reason.

The training of women nurses was begun in 1890; of men nurses, after the war with China.

Besides being always ready for war, the hospital also offers its resources in all times of public calamity, such as, for instance, the earthquake at Akita.

The society includes in its plan the instruction of high-class women of the laity in elementary nursing and first aid. Upon this point the report says: "If it be asked, 'Why instruct women of the aristocracy in the art of caring for the sick and wounded?' It is certain that most of these women cannot give regular service in the hospitals, and even if they do work there, sometimes their work is of no special value?" to this we reply that the society does not adopt this plan for the purpose of securing a greater number of nurses, but does it to elevate the profession of nursing to a higher social plane. Everything else is secondary. In Europe and America there are Sisters of Charity who set the pattern for lay nurses, and as the former are esteemed, so also are the latter. In Japan there is nothing of the kind, and we have had to demonstrate the value of professional

nurses, and that their devotion contributes to the realization of the idea, 'Obligation to country and aid to the soldiers.'"

With this idea, then, an association of women of high rank was formed, who met two or three times a month and studied the elements of nursing under a medical chief, who arranged a special text-book for their use. More than a hundred ladies of the nobility took this course.

This frank and simple explanation of the Japanese report will make perfectly plain and clear to American nurses the attitude of Miss Clara Barton and the methods of the Red Cross in this country, of which she is president, which so bewildered and annoyed them at the time of the Spanish-American War, when society women and all sorts of laity were hurriedly called together, given what was called "first aid" instructions, and sent hither and yon as "Red Cross Nurses." Well-trained nurses who held their hospital diplomas could not understand this, but a little history explains it. The Red Cross Societies of the Old World are purely aristocratic organizations, and all their methods are adapted to a society where patronage and royal approval are everything, and where the status of all working-women is very low indeed in the social scale and needs to be propped up by artificial aid. As nurses were found to be necessary for the army, it became necessary to dignify their work by casting about it a halo of fashionable interest.

Miss Barton was trained in the Red Cross work of foreign countries, and, great as her life work has been, and revered as she must always be, she has always retained the methods of Old-World monarchies in her Red Cross work, not realizing that they did not fit in this country, with its independent army of trained nurses. Here the work of the nurse does not need the patronage of the society woman; rather was the latter, when posing as a "Red Cross Nurse," looked down upon by the nurse, and rightly so.

But to return to our Japanese report: Besides their own instruction, these ladies did much to encourage the nurses.

On the formation of every new class, or whenever a nurse was promoted, one of the Princesses of the royal family was present and said some kind and encouraging words. Other members were charged with supervision over the moral standards of the nurses. Others gave prizes to nurses who had specially distinguished themselves.

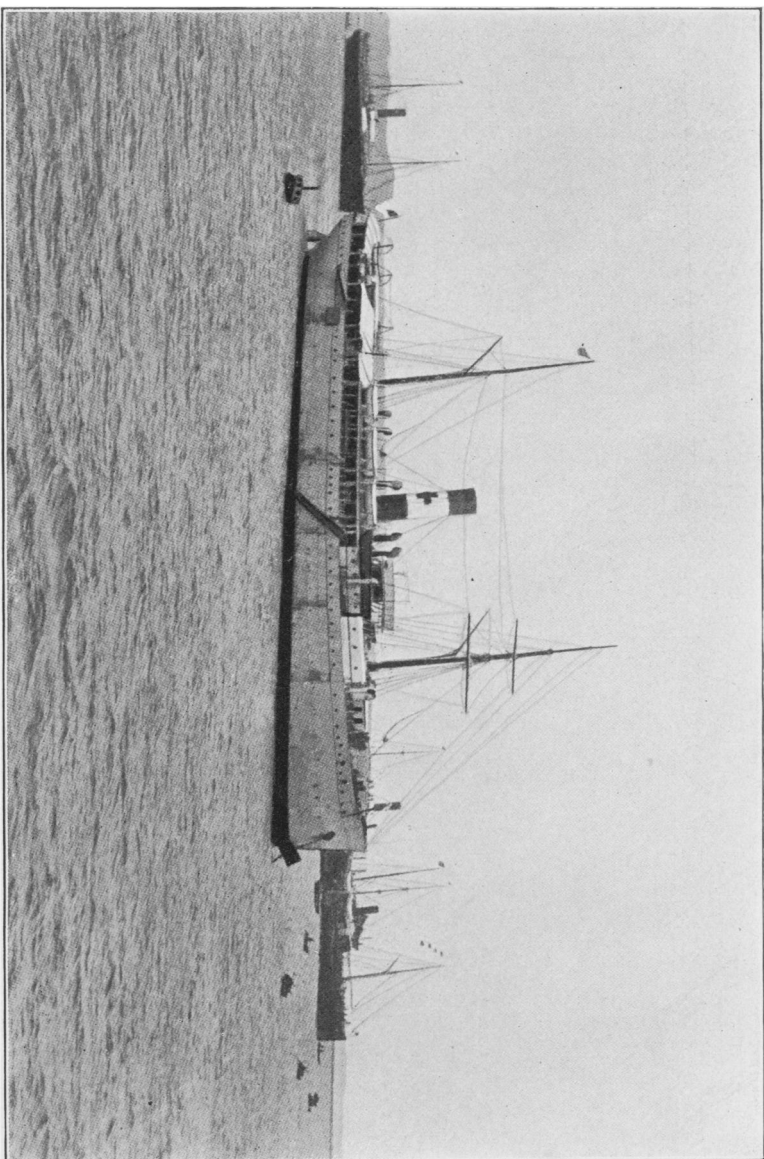
The nurses live in the hospital, and in matters of discipline and conduct are supervised by the committee of ladies. Their technical instruction is given by the doctors of the hospital. The requirements for admission and the rules of discipline are about like those of the best European hospitals of similar character; the course of study is three years, the first half of which is filled principally with technical study, practical work being only accessory.

The last eighteen months are given entirely to practical work.

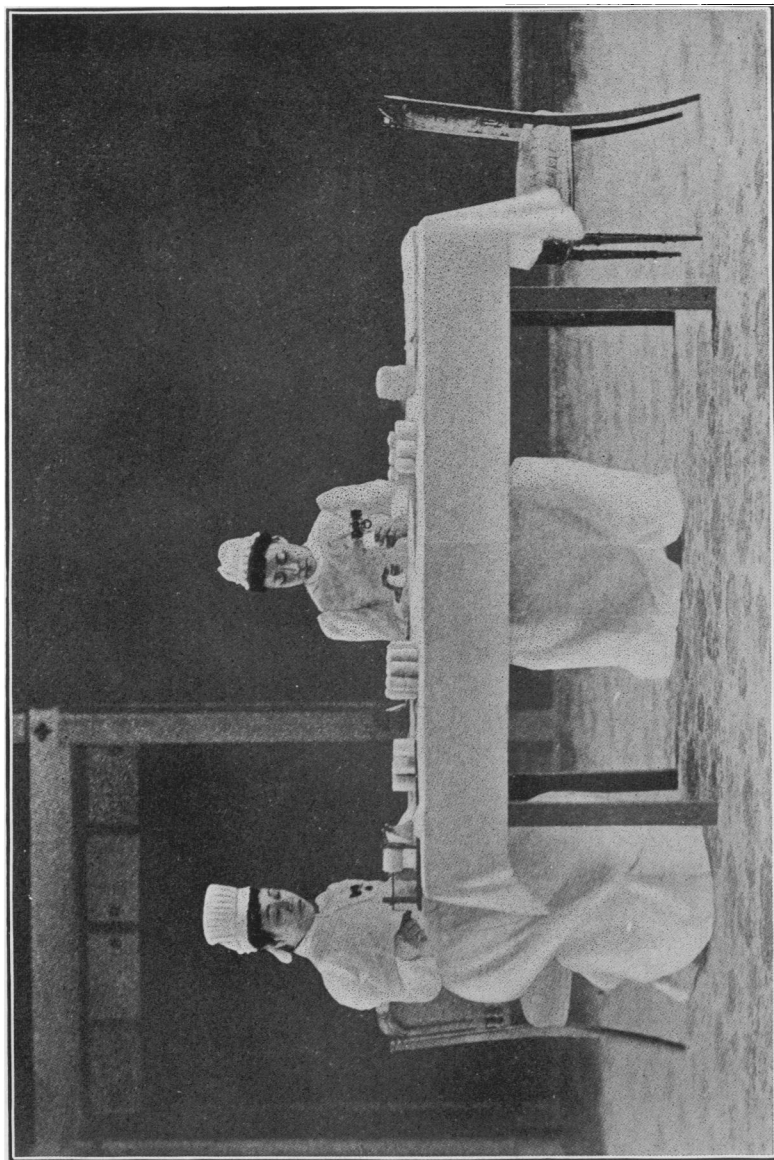
The nurses on the reserve list bind themselves to a fifteen-years' service, if necessary, or to answer the calls of the society during this period, and these nurses are given a two-weeks' period of instruction yearly. Nurses on the reserve list who are guilty of serious misconduct are removed from the list, their diplomas taken from them, and the reason for their discharge published.

At the end of the year 1898 the society had one hundred and ninety-five pupil nurses, of which ninety had obtained a diploma.

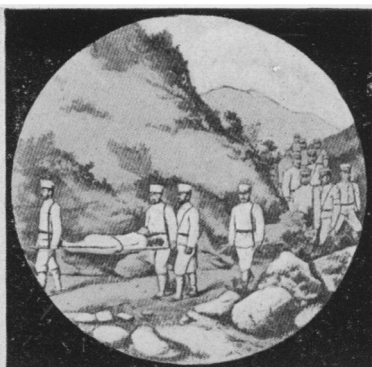
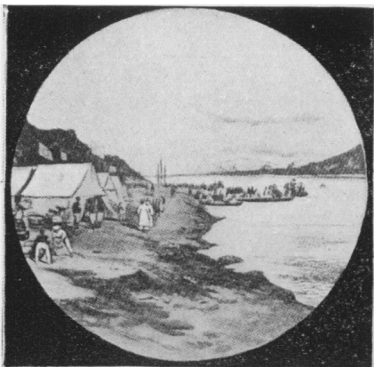
Since that time the service has been enlarged by a system provided for teacher-nurses to go into smaller places and instruct nurses in affiliated hospitals, and by a system providing for private duty.



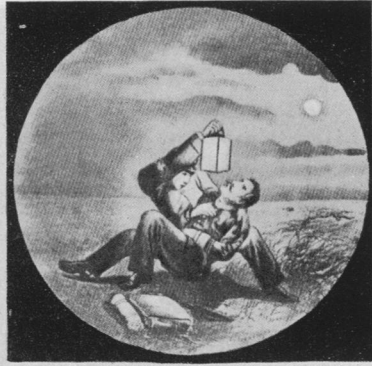
HOSPITAL SHIP OF THE RED CROSS OF JAPAN



MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY MAKING BANDAGES



LANERN SLIDE PICTURES USED BY THE RED CROSS



LANTERN SLIDE PICTURES USED BY THE RED CROSS

The nurses are now drawn from excellent families and are deeply respected, no longer only because of aristocratic support, but because of their own merits and capability. We have often heard from Miss Richards and others of the charm, refinement, and dainty perfection of the Japanese nurse. This Red Cross report shows that they have now become indispensable in hospital work, and their success and prestige must give an impetus to the whole movement among women for a definite place in the world's work.

The Red Cross Society of Japan gives lectures in the various towns for the purpose of arousing public interest. These are illustrated by lantern slides, and it is interesting to read that the picture of Florence Nightingale is always thrown upon the canvas.

LETTERS

AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND.

The photographs of the Wilhelmina Gasthuis which have appeared in the JOURNAL do not convey an adequate impression of this very beautiful hospital. I made my first visit there the other day, and remembering that it had trees in front of it in the photograph, I looked about for trees and open space upon alighting from a car at some little distance. What at first sight seemed to be a beautiful park turned out to be the hospital grounds, in which the buildings, on the isolated pavilion plan, stand separately, but each as part of a symmetrical design.

Like the great general hospital at Eppendorf, it seemed more like a beautiful small city and less like an institution than our hospitals. The grounds are so spacious, the trees, shrubbery, and lawns so luxuriant and well planned, that the buildings only open to sight one by one as the tour of the grounds is made. The Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia is more like it in this respect than any other I remember at home. Others, like the Johns Hopkins and Boston City, have fine, large grounds, but landscape gardening has not there produced this charming, park-like setting of each pavilion.

One detail which particularly struck me was the placing of the mortuary. It stood in a retired and unobtrusive position, completely sheltered with green, and the approach to it, which was winding, was hidden between two hedges of shrubbery high above a man's head. The whole impression was one of quiet reverence.

To carry the meals and supplies a little railway runs through each road or path, on which a small handcar with closed compartments travels.

The nurses, of course, must go through wind and weather when these are bad, but this is more than compensated for by the paths to duty between leaves and flowers and open sky through most of the year. How much more refreshing than marble corridors and tiled underground passages!

The buildings are beautiful architecturally and in color. The characteristic Dutch lines of roof are preserved. The hospital is quite new, the corner-stone having been laid only ten years ago by the young Wilhelmina, and all its appliances, ventilation, etc., are modern.

On a distant portion of the grounds stands the remains of an ancient building which was a plague hospital in the early part of the fifteenth century. This, to my regret, I did not see, as rain, which is too plentiful in Holland, had flooded the approach to it. The old building is now a picturesque ruin.

There are between six and seven hundred beds and every kind of service,—medical, surgical, gynæcological, obstetrical, mental, contagious, children's and sick infants', men's and women's wards,—so that the nurses in their three-years' course must certainly get an excellent training.

Oddly enough, in this hospital the maids wear caps and the nurses wear none. It would be, apparently, a loss of dignity for the nurses to wear caps. The uniform is dark blue with the white apron with shoulder-straps. The nurses who have passed their third-year's examination are distinguished by a white brooch in the form of the Maltese cross. Save this one article there is no difference between the dress of the head nurses and juniors. It seemed to me that, like some of the English hospitals, there was in these wards a sort of homely cheerfulness which our severely aseptic wards at home often lack. Each ward had many green plants, and here and there some patient had her canary-bird in its cage. An upright piano stands in the middle of the long wards, and when one of the nurses plays or sings there is music for the patients in the quiet hours.

The nurses' hours are longer,—eleven in a day,—but the staff in a ward is large, and I am sure they do their work in a more unhurried way than we. The proportion of nurses to a ward, counting those only who are actually doing up the patients, not those in diet kitchen and operating-room work or head nurse, is about one to four patients.

I saw an arrangement for keeping patients raised off of the bed which was new to me, and it may be so to some others. There were, first, attached to the bed slender iron uprights and side-pieces, like the skeleton of a bed. This was all adjustable, and to the side-pieces were hooked, with eyelet-holes and tapes, the firmly made ends of broad bands of fine canvas, which passed under the patient's body from side to side and which, when made taut, raised him from the bed as much or little as desired, this being regulated by a turning crank and pulley. The bed itself was made in the usual way, and a large water-pillow covered all the part below the patient's buttocks and spine. Large, soft pads of cotton were laid between his body and the supporting bands, and he had plenty of pillows. In this position the patient, who had previously suffered excruciating pain, lay suspended in an easy curve which could be altered by loosening or tightening the fastenings at the side, and which afforded him complete relief, as well as entirely preventing bed-sores and allowing the most perfect cleanliness to be maintained.

After the three-years' course is completed the nurses here may, as in so many foreign hospitals, remain in the service of the hospital on a moderate salary as long as they desire or are desirable. I cannot but think this an admirable arrangement which might well be adopted in American hospitals, lessening the number of new probationers every year and giving a feeling of more permanency and steadiness. If a nurse loses her health in the hospital service even after two-years' work, she receives a pension from the city, for the Wilhelmina is a municipal hospital. This is not enough to live on, but enough to pay for lodging and, probably, clothing.

Nurses who desire private duty may work independently, or they may join the Association of the White Cross, which gives them a fixed salary and provides them with cases,—but not with a home,—or they may join a coöperative association, through which they obtain cases and receive practically their earnings,—also living at their own expense.

A successful private-duty nurse can with regular work earn what corresponds

to four hundred and eighty to six hundred dollars a year. Living expenses are less than with us, yet not enough so as to make this equal to the salary of the American.

There is an excellent district nursing association in Amsterdam, which I hope to visit later.

L. L. D.

ITEMS

REGISTERED NURSES' SOCIETY

THE ninth annual report of the Registered Nurses' Society in London gives some interesting figures by which to compare the relative earnings of nurses in England and America. The Registered Nurses' Society, it will be remembered by those who were at the Buffalo Congress, conducts an exclusive registry for its members, all of whom must possess a high grade of professional qualifications, and who, consequently, may be assumed to represent the best-paid element in English nursing. The members of the society receive all of their own earnings, from which they deduct simply the expenses of their business office.

The report gives the average weekly sum earned as two pounds nine shillings, which in American money is just about twelve dollars, perhaps a few cents more or less. This is just about half the average weekly earnings of a trained nurse in the large cities of America, and three dollars less than the average of fifteen dollars a week which is the general rule in small towns. Then, if one were to select a group of nurses in one of our large cities, representing a carefully chosen class of nurses, such as the Registered Nurses' Society represents,—let us say the New York Hospital Nurses' Registry,—it would quite certainly be found that, as these nurses by the advantage of their position are able generally to command incomes of from twenty-eight to thirty-five dollars a week, a weekly average made up from the statistics of such a registry would show a higher level than twenty-four dollars. It may therefore be safely assumed that, taking nurses of the same professional grade, the American is paid something more than twice the sum which the English nurse receives at private duty.

Of course, the cost of living must always be considered in estimating the value of wages. Living is less expensive in England, on the whole, yet we doubt whether it is exactly *half less*, than in America, and in order to equalize the incomes it would have to be just half, or a little less than half, what it is here.

Work is also rather less strenuous in England, and English nurses work for a longer period of years than the American. Yet in fifteen years of private duty a successful nurse can save more than an equally successful one in England could save in nearly twice the number of working years.

All these things considered, one cannot wonder that America is looked on as a favorable spot for work.

DR. ANNA HAMILTON, who is doing so much to educate the public authorities in France on questions of hospital nursing, does not approve of attempting to train nurses in hospitals where medical students are taught. She considers that the presence of medical students in wards is a serious obstacle to the establishment of schools for nurses of desirable character, as for years past the students have been accustomed to look upon nurses as persons for whom they need feel no respect.

For this reason she advocates the creation of training-schools for nurses on a

modern pattern in hospitals unconnected with universities, as offering superior advantages to the pupil nurse, and says that where there is the university connection there should be strict disciplinary measures to insure good behavior of the students towards the nursing staff.

A RECENT number of *Unter dem roten Kreuz* gives the names of the directors of the Training-School for Superintendents of Nursing in Munich, which we have mentioned in a previous issue. The school is under the direction of the Red Cross Society, and nurses wishing to enter must, among other things, show two-years' experience as sister or head nurse of a ward. If accepted, they must either promise to give two-years' service in one of the Red Cross hospitals or else to pay the cost of the course of teaching.

Fräulein von Wallmenich, a trained Red Cross sister, is on the directors' board.

